

GameZone | Digital Downloads | Shop | Trade Games | KidZone

HOME PC PS2 PS3 XBOX 360 PSP GBA DS MOBILE WII MMPOG PlayNow | Forums | Downloads

Cheats | Coming Soon | Interviews | New Releases | News | Previews | Reviews | Best Games | Online Games | Editorials | Contests | Price Locator | Publishers

Find a game:

GO!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Action  
Adventure  
Puzzle/Board  
Role PlayingSimulation  
Sports  
Strategy  
All Xbox 360 Games

## NBA Live 09

Cheats Downloads Reviews Previews News Screens Comments (0)



**Publisher:** EA SPORTS™  
**Developer:** EA Canada  
**# of Players:** 1-4 offline; 2-10 online  
**Category:** Sports  
**Release Dates**  
 N Amer - 10/07/2008  
**Official Game Website**  
**Also available on:** PS2 PS3 PSP WII



**GameZone Review Detail**

Gameplay	8
Graphics	8
Sound	8
Difficulty	Medium
Concept	8
Multiplayer	8.5
Overall	8.0

**8.0**  
GZ Rating

While still not perfect, NBA Live's 09 outing offers some great improvements.

**Reviewer:** Steven Hopper  
**Review Date:** 10/07/2008

NBA Live 09 Review

Share Glink It

NBA Live 09 represents the latest step for EA Sports' long-running basketball franchise. After some pretty dismal entries at the start of the high-def console generation, NBA Live seems to be beginning to hit its stride. NBA Live 09 offers some pretty compelling updates for hoops fans, including the new Dynamic DNA updating system, which all but ensures that NBA Live 09 has some staying power. While there are still some problems plaguing the franchise, NBA Live 09 offers a few truly groundbreaking features to make it definitely compelling option for basketball fans.

NBA Live 09 adds some pretty nice updates over its predecessor. The on-court action has been cleaned up from previous entries and some great new moves have been added to the roster. New pick-and-roll controls let you control both your ball-handler and the screener for two-man plays, improved fake-out moves like quickstrike anklebreakers feel intuitive and help you get the drop on your opponents, and the new play-calling system is a great touch that allows you to tweak your offense as well as an easy and intuitive one for newcomers.

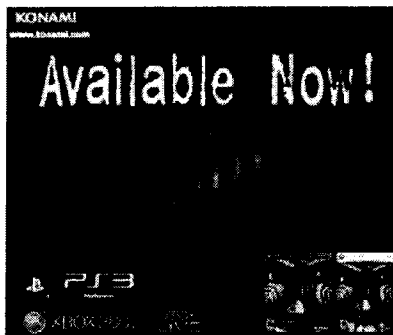


Dynamic DNA is the biggest new feature offered in NBA Live 09. Using the NBA Live 365 persistent online element, this great new feature allows players to have access to constantly updating stats for all of the players and teams in the game that reflect their performance in the real-world and applies it to the game. If one player is on a roll for a game or two, the game will update his stats, and adversely if he plays poorly, the game will reflect that. This is a great new feature that basically negates the concept of roster updates in future games, and will possibly give NBA Live 09 some serious legs in the postseason.

There is also a pretty solid online component in NBA Live 09. The online



Avg. Web Rating 7.7



ESRB Rating



**Everyone**  
No Descriptors

## Price Comparisons

Shop at	Price	Seller Rating
DEEP DISCOUNT.COM	\$23.99	★★★★★ 5372 Reviews
GameFly	\$38.99	★★★★★ 1910 Reviews
mwave	\$39.99	★★★★★ 4273 Reviews
Compare Prices for All 4 Sellers (\$15.75 - \$39.99)		

powered by PriceGrabber.com

## Industry Critic Reviews

## GameZone's Partners

9.0 Darkstation  
 Inside Hotwire 3D

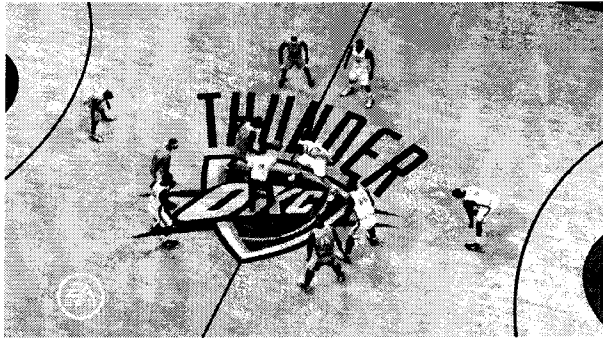
## Other Sources

6.5 IGN

## Top Rated Reviews

Batman: Arkham Asylum (9.5)  
 Forza Motorsport 3 (9.3)  
 The Beatles: Rock Band (9.3)  
 NHL 10 (9)  
 Trials HD (9)  
 Shadow Complex (9)  
 Halo 3: ODST (8.8)  
 Pinball Hall of Fame: The Williams Collection (8.7)

team play element allowing for 10-player games online has returned, albeit with a pretty huge addition in clubs. Each club can have up to 50 different members, with five players from each club participating in online games, earning leaderboard points for their club, posting team blogs to announce upcoming games and so on. All in all, the community aspect is great in NBA Live 09, offering players a great platform to interact and play together.



Unfortunately, there are some plaguing issues that rear their ugly heads in NBA Live 09. There are still a couple of glitchy moments in the on-court play, including some framerate stutters that disrupt the flow of the game. While the animations boast modest improvements over previous versions of the game's engine, there are still some wonky looking moments that will pull you out of the game.

Secondly, the "Be A Pro" mode is nowhere near as fleshed out as it is in EA Sports' other offerings. Essentially, instead of taking you player through the motions of working up from a rookie to NBA stardom, you'll only be able to play as one existing NBA player for one game. The game will fix your control exclusively on your chosen player, but instead of really playing to the best of your on-court position, you're simply vying for the ball and trying to get the most points on the scoreboard. This mode lacks the depth and scope that it has in other sports titles launching this year, and feels like a pretty weak addition to the game's otherwise impressive formula.



Graphically, aside from the aforementioned glitches and framerate stutters, NBA Live 09 is a pretty good looking basketball game. The animations are generally very smooth and the character models look good without the creepy lifeless effect that often plagues sports titles.

Soundwise, the game also performs quite well, with a great commentary track and good court ambience. The soundtrack is the standard EA Sports' soundtrack that fans of the series (or any other EA Sports game, for that matter).

NBA Live 09 features some nice additions, but also boasts some shortcomings that keep it from truly hitting the mark. Still, the on-court game feels great and the online elements will certainly keep you busy for a long time.

#### Review Scoring Details for NBA Live 09

##### Gameplay: 8.0

The on-court action is very solid, and the new Dynamic DNA feature is a fantastic addition. The slim Be A Pro mode is pretty disappointing, unfortunately, and doesn't really offer much to the game.

##### Graphics: 8.0

While there is the occasional framerate stutter that can cause some gameplay problems, the animations are great and the character models are very detailed and look realistic without being creepy.

##### Sound: 8.0

NBA Live 09 features some pretty good commentary and a soundtrack that

7.0 **Game Spy**

7.8 **GameOver**

All Reviews for NBA Live 09

you'd expect from

**NetApp® Data Center**

**Difficulty: Medi** Provides nondisruptive availability of mission critical business data.  
cloud.NetApp.com

**Concept: 8.0**

While some of it should be, others like the Dynamic DNA system are excellent additions.

**Multiplayer: 8.5**

The new club-based online team play is a great touch and adds a great community element to the game and the franchise.

**Overall: 8.0**

NBA Live 09 is a solid step up for the franchise, adding a cool new online community element and the great NBA Live 365 element is a pretty revolutionary element not just for the franchise, but for the sports genre as a whole. Unfortunately, there are some shortcomings that hurt the overall experience, like a barebones Be A Pro mode and a few on-court technical issues.

NBA Live 09 Comments (0)

**Join the Conversation**

**HOME** **PC** **Playstation 2** **Playstation 3** **XBOX** **XBOX 360** **GameCube** **PSP** **Game Boy Advance** **DS** **MOBILE** **WII** **MMPOG**

**Hot Links** | **Meet Our Reviewers** | **Email Sign Up/Login** | **RSS Feeds**

**Affiliate Program** • **Submit Reviews** • **Meet Affiliates** • **Advertise**  
**About GameZone** • **Privacy Policy** • **Support** • **Contact Us!**

NBA Live 09 Review

© 1996-2009, GameZone Online. All rights reserved.